

Application No: 10/824,518
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3128

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 and 19-30 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 11, 15 and 19 are independent. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11 and 15 are amended. Claim 18 is cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. The subject matter of claim 18 is incorporated into independent claim 1 by this Amendment.

In section 3 on pages 2-3, the Office Action objects to the Abstract for the reason that it contains more than 150 words. The Abstract is amended to include less than 150 words. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification in section 3 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In section 4 on page 3, the Office Action objects to claim 7 due to a typographical error. The typographical error in claim 7 is corrected by this Amendment. For at least the foregoing reason, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 7 be withdrawn.

In section 7 on pages 4-6, the Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,393,475 to Leong et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,249,170 to Tindal et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In section 9 on page 6, the Office Action indicates that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendment to claim 1 consists of rewriting claim 1 to correspond to claim 18 rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6-10, 13 and 14 depending therefrom, should be allowed.

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For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 13 and 14 as allegedly being unpatentable over Leong et al. in view of Tindal et al be withdrawn.

In section 9 on page 6, the Office Action indicates that claims 5, 11 and 15, from which claims 12, 16 and 17 depend, respectively, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 11 and 15 are rewritten in this manner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 5, 11, 12 and 15-17 be allowed.

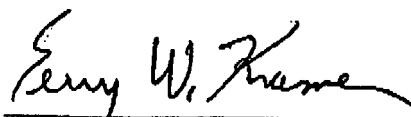
CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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